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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

May 14, 1984

Re: Preliminary Environmental Review
Ryegate Class II Landfill

Board of County Commissioners, Golden Valley Co. Courthouse, Ryegate
Dick Isern, Central MT Health District, Box 1150, Lewistown, MT
Earl Osse, Mayor, Town of Ryegate, Ryegate
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Room 432, Helena
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena
Arnold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena

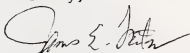
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604,
the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the
Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning Town of
Ryegate, Class II Landfill.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform
all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of
the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have
a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary
Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15)
days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within
the allotted time.

Sincerely,



JAMES E. LEITER
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

JEL:vc
Encls.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
Cogswell Building, Helena, Montana 59601
(406) 444-2821

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Ryegate Landfill E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 6, Township 5, Range 20

Description of Project (See Attached Sheets)

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats			X			X
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics			X			X
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production				X		
5. Human health			X			
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Central Montana Health District

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS No EIS Necessary

PER Prepared by: 

Date: May 10, 1984

May 10, 1984

TOWN OF RYEGATE LANDFILL
Preliminary Environmental Review

The Town of Ryegate proposes to license an existing landfill in Golden Valley County. The landfill has been in existence for approximately one and a half years and was developed as a replacement landfill for the old dump which was closed in 1982. Operation and maintenance information submitted with the license application indicates that the site will be open Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. At the end of each operating day, the solid waste will be compacted and covered with earth.

The comments below will attempt to address potential impact from the site. Potential impacts are judged on the premise that the landfill will be operated in compliance with the Montana Solid Waste Management Act and rules.

A) POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1) Terrestrial and aquatic life and habitats - Operation of the landfill should affect only a few local species of small, terrestrial mammals and insects. The site is not expected to affect water quality or aquatic life in any way.

3) Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture - Replacement of existing soil with decomposable solid waste materials has an inevitable, minor impact upon soils. Some minor settling can be expected as the waste deteriorates. Since the trenches will be shallow due to restrictive soil conditions, settling and moisture retention should be minimal.

4) Vegetation cover, quantity and quality - The site is located on 10 acres of city owned previously unused ground with marginal value for other purposes. Removal of vegetative cover should be temporary, but full recovery of native plant growth may take many years after closure.

5) Aesthetics - Landfills invariably have at least a minor negative aesthetic impact on the surrounding area. The operation and maintenance plans for the site indicate that provisions have been made for good litter control. Daily soil cover should greatly reduce the possibility of fires, litter, or rodent and insect harborage.

B) POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

5) Human health - Even at properly operated landfill sites there may be danger of accidental injury. Strict compliance with the Montana Solid Waste Management Act should greatly reduce the chance of negative impact upon human health.

12) Demands for energy - The town has purchased a small crawler/tractor for daily cover at the landfill. Operating the equipment at the end of each day's landfilling will result in consumption of a minor amount of diesel fuel.

